

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TOKYO 09015 091157Z

43

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 COME-00 STR-08 TRSE-00

DRC-01 RSC-01 /053 W

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P 091030Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3175

UNCLAS TOKYO 9015

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR HUME AND FITZSIMMONDS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR

SUBJECT: GRAPEFRUIT

REF: TOFAS 428

1. AS PER REF TOFAS, MET WITH DG MATSUMOTO THIS PM AT WHICH
TIME HE GAVE US FOLLOWING IN WRITING:

QUOTE RE: IMPORTS OF GRAPEFRUIT FROM FLORIDA

A. FROM FOUR DIFFERENT SHIPMENTS OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT
IMPORTED RECENTLY, I.E. THOSE SHIPMENTS OF MAY 30, JUNE 19,
JUNE 24 AND JULY 5, FRUIT FLY LARVAE WERE DISCOVERED.
THEREFORE, UNDER OUR PLANT QUARANTINE REGULATIONS WE ISSUED
ORDERS TO RETURN OR DESTROY THESE FRUITS.
OF THE FOUR CASES OF FRUIT FLY LARVAE DISCOVERED, TWO CASES
HAVE BEEN DETERMINED AS "CARIBBEAN FRUIT FLY" (ANASTREPHA
SUSPENS A (LOEW)).

B. THESE INCIDENTS HAVE IMPOSED A GRAVE THREAT TO FRUIT
GROWING IN OUR COUNTRY AND WE HAVE BEEN STRONGLY REQUESTED
BY FRUIT GROWER ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHERS IN JAPAN TO BAN
IMPORTS OF FLORIDA GRAPFRUIT COMPLETELY IN ORDER TO PREVENT
THE INTRODUCTION AND INFESTATION OF SUCH FRUIT FLIES TO THIS
COUNTRY.

UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 TOKYO 09015 091157Z

C. WE CONSIDER THAT THESE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE VERY REGRETFUL NOT ONLY FOR THOSE ENGAGED IN FRUIT TRADE BUT ALSO FOR THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE U.S. AND JAPAN.

D. WE, THEREFORE, REQUEST INFORMATION FROM YOUR COUNTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE CONCERNING WHAT SORT OF APPROPRIATE PROCEDURES WILL BE TAKEN ON YOUR SIDE IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER EXPORTATION OF FRUIT FLY INFESTED GRAPEFRUIT FROM YOUR COUNTRY. IF WE CANNOT REACH AN AGREEABLE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM PRIOR TO THE NEXT SHIPPING SEASON, PLEASE UNDERSTAND THAT WE MAY HAVE TO REQUEST YOUR COUNTRY TO VOLUNTARY RESTRICT EXPORTS OF FLORDIA GRAPEFRUIT TO OUR COUNTRY. END QUOTE

2. INCONVERSATION THAT FOLLOWED, DG EXPRESSED MAF KEEN DESIRE TO HAVE FULLEST EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION SOONEST AND ON CONTINUING BASIS BETWEEN USDA AND MAF TECHNICAL EXPERTS RE:

A. WHY THE OCCURRENCE OF PROBLEMS THIS YEAR WHEN NO PROBLEM IN PAST?

B. HAS US INSPECTION SYSTEM WHICH THEY NIGHLY REGARD LOST SOME EFFECTIVENESS?

C. WHAT IS ACTUAL SITUATION IN DETAIL RE INFESTATION OF CARIBBEAN FRUIT FLY WHICH IS THEIR IDENTIFICATION OF LRVAE FROM TWO OF THE FOUR SHIPMENTS?

D. WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS OF OTHER STATES FOR SHIPMENTS FROM FLORDIA SUCH AS CALIFORNIA FUMIGATION REQUIREMENTS? ADVISED DG HAD SOLICITED MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION ALREADY FROM USDA/W AND WOULD FOLLOW UP ASAP AND RELAY INFO RECEIVED TO HIM.

3. RE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, MAF WISHES TO BE KEPT ABREAST OF FINDING REGARDING THESE FOUR INCIDENTS AS WELL AS USDA PLANS FOR AVOIDING REOCCURRENCE, I.E. AS PLANS ARE DEVELOPED, NOT AFTER US HAS REACHED CONCLUSIONS. MAY IF PREPARED TO MAKE AVAILABLETECHNICIANS AS APPROPRIATE TO VISITAND OBSERVE SITUATION IN US AND/OR RECEIVE SPECIALISTS HERE. DG EMPHASIZED ONLY NINETY DAYS BEFORE NEXT SHIPPING SEASON BEGINS AND UNLESS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 09015 091157Z

MAF CONVINCED ADEQUATE MEASURE HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO PREVENT REOCCURRENCE WILL INSIST US VOLUNTARILLY REFRAIN FROM MAKING FURTHER SHIPMENTS.

4. AGATTE PRESSED SINCERE REGRET FOR OCCURRENCE, ASSURED DG THAT USDA WAS MAXIMIZING ITS EFFORTS TO LOCATE SOURCE OF PROBLEM, WOULD DO ITS BEST TO PREVENT FURTHER INSTANCES, WOULD KEEP THEM AS FULLY INFORMED AS POSSIBLE, BUT OBVIOUSLY

WILL NEED AND SEEKS MAF COOPERATION IN FINDING MUTUALLY
ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. AGREE TIME IS SHORT IN NEXT SEASON'S
SHIPMENTS TO NOT BE INTERRUPTED, WILL REDOUBLE OUR EFFORTS
AND SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE WHERE NEEDED, E.G. IF FUMIGATION
IS DECIDED UPON, WHERE, WITH WHAT, HOW, ETC.

5. DG INDICATED KEY CONTACT FOR MAF WOULD BE DR. HIDEO
FUKUDA, PLANT PROTECTION DIVISION, MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
AND FORESTRY, 2-1, KASUMIGASEKI 1-CHOME, CHIHODA-KU,
TOKYO.

6. REQUEST DESIGNATION COMPARABLE USDA CONTACT SOONEST.
WITH COMMUNICATION BETWEEN TWO EXPERT GROUPS, VIA RESPECTIVE
OFFICES OF F & V DIV/FAS/W AND AGATTACHE, TO COMMENCE
SOONEST, KEEPING IN MIND SPECIFIC MAF REQUESTS NOTED ABOVE.

7. RE FASTO 279, PARA 4, ALSO SEE TOFAS 428 OF JULY 8.
RE APARA 2 AND 3 OF FASTO 279 SEE TOFAS 394, PARAS 2 AND 3.
REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION BASED ON DISTANCE OF 60 MILES,
REINSPECTION AND OR FUMIGATION ALREADY POLITELY BUT FIRMLY
REJECTED BY PLANT INSPECTION OFFICIALS MAF.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD INSPECTION, CITRUS FRUITS, IMPORT QUOTAS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO09015
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740181-1186
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740763/aaaaccdt.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: TOFAS 428
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21 OCT 2002 by ThomasVJ>; APPROVED <15 JAN 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRAPEFRUIT
TAGS: EAGR, JA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005